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Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 /086 W
----------051963 271057Z /11
P R 270915Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4842
INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 RANGOON 0341

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, BM, CH
SUBJ: TENG HSIAO-PING VISIT TO BURMA

BEGIN SUMMARY: TENG HSIAO-PING'S JANUARY 26-31 VISIT TO BURMA IS OFF TO AN UNREMARKABLE BEGINNING, EXCEPT THAT THE BURMESE ARE GOING ALL-OUT TO WELCOME THEIR DISTINGUISHED VISITOR WITH SOCIALIST POMP AND SPECIAL ATTENTION.A FAIRLY ACTIVE ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS AND OFFICIAL DINNERS IS PLANNED, ALONG WITH A TWO-DAY VISIT TO A BEACH RESORT ON THE BAY OF BENGAL. THUS FAR THERE HAVE BEEN NO PUBLIC STATEMENTS OR DEVELOPMENTS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST. END SUMMARY.

1. CHINESE VICE PREMIER TENG HSIAO-PING ARRIVED IN RANGOON THE AFTERNOON OF JANUARY 26 TO BEGIN HIS FIVE-DAY "OFFICIAL FRIENDLY VISIT." HE WAS WELCOMED AT THE AIRPORT BY PRESIDENT NE WIN AND ALL OTHER IMPORTANT BURMESE LEADERS, AS WELL AS SOME 3000 FLAG-WAVING, SLOGAN-CHANTING MEMBERS OF BURMA
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SOCIALIST PROGRAM PARTY YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS. CHIEFS OF MISSION WHOSE COUNTRIES HAVE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE PRC WERE INVITED TO TAKE PART IN THE AIRPORT WELCOMING CEREMONIES.

2. AS EXPECTED, THE BURMESE ARE GOING ALL-OUT TO MAKE THE VISIT AS IMPRESSIVE AS POSSIBLE. IN ADDITION TO THE ENTHUSI-

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ASTIC AIRPORT CEREMONY, NEARLY 100,000 STUDENTS AND WORKERS WERE SELECTED BY BSPP MEMBERS, INSTRUCTED TO DRESS WELL AND BE JOYOUS, AND LINED UP ALONG THE ROAD FROM THE AIRPORT INTO TOWN TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR ENTHUSIASM FOR TENG'S VISIT AND CHINA-BURMA FRIENDSHIP.

3. TENG'S ARRIVAL STATEMENT WAS BRIEF AND NON-SUBSTANTIVE. HE NOTED THE HISTORIC TIES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND SAID THAT HIS VISIT, "LIKE THE PREVIOUS ONES UNDERTAKEN BY LEADERS OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES, IS AIMED AT FURTHER CONSOLIDATING AND STRENGTHENING THE TRADITIONAL FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO PEOPLES AND THE FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES."

4. IN THE EVENING, TENG CALLED ON NE WIN FOR TALKS, AND NE WIN HOSTED A DINNER IN HIS HONOR.

5. USIS WAS ABLE TO OBTAIN A COPY OF THE BURMESE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S SCHEDULE FOR TENG'S VISIT. ACCORDING TO THAT SCHEDULE, TENG ON JANUARY 27 WILL LAY A WREATH AT THE MARTYR'S MAUSOLEUM, VISIT SHWEDAGON PAGODA, HOLD TALKS WITH NE WIN, CALL ON COUNCIL OF STATE SECRETARY GENERAL SAN YU (THE NUMBER TWO OFFICIAL IN THE GUB), AND ATTEND A DINNER HOSTED BY PRIME MINISTER MAUNG MAUNG KHA. THE MORNING OF JANUARY 28, TENG WILL VISIT THE GEM EMPORIUM CURRENTLY IN PROGRESS (THE GUB'S ANNUAL AUCTION OF BURMA-PRODUCED JADE, PEARLS, RUBIES, ETC.) AND THE BURMA PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY PLANT; AND IN THE CONFIDENTIAL

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AFTERNOON HE WILL GO TO NGAPALI (ALSO KNOWN AS SANDOWAY, A BEACH RESORT AREA NORTHWEST OF RANGOON ON THE ARAKAN COAST), ACCOMPANIED BY PRIME MINISTER MAUNG MAUNG KHA. THE AREA MILITARY COMMANDER WILL BE THE HOST FOR THE EVENING'S DINNER. THE FOLLOWING DAY THERE WILL BE SIGHTSEEING, BOAT RACING, ELEPHANT LOGGING DEMONSTRATIONS, ETC.; AND ON THE MORNING OF JANUARY 30 THE PARTY WILL RETURN TO RANGOON. TENG WILL GIVE HIS RETURN DINNER FOR NE WIN THAT EVENING. DEPARTURE FROM RANGOON IS SCHEDULED AT 8:35 A.M. ON JANUARY 31.

6. THERE ARE 25 MEMBERS OF TENG'S DELEGATION, INCLUDING BODYGUARDS, MEDICAL PERSONNEL, TV CAMERAMEN, AND HSIN HUA REPORTERS. THE PRINCIPAL MEMBERS ARE:

HAN NIEN-LUNG - DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
WANG HSIAO-YUN - DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF DEPARTMENT OF ASIAN AFFAIRS, MOFA
CHENG JUI-SHENG - DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF DEPARTMENT OF ASIAN AFFAIRS, MOFA
KAO TSIEN-CHUNG - DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PROTOCOL DEPARTMENT, MOFA
WANG JUI-LUN - SECRETARY TO THE VICE PREMIER

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WU WEI-JAN - DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PEKING HOSPITAL
TING CHIH-YU - VICE CHIEF OF STAFF OF SECURITY DEPARTMENT
CHANG LI - CHIEF OF DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF ASIAN
AFFAIRS, MOFA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 RANGOON 0341

7. COMMENT: THE VISIT IS OFF TO AN UNREMARKABLE BEGINNING, EXCEPT FOR THE PROBABLY UNPRECEDENTED DISPLAY OF ALL THE SOCIALIST POMP AND WARMTH OF WHICH THE BURMESE ARE CAPABLE. AS USUAL WHENEVER SOMETHING OF SIGNIFICANCE HAPPENS IN BURMA, RANGOON DIPLOMATS ARE ASKING EACH OTHER AND THEIR BURMESE CONTACTS WHAT IT ALL MEANS AND FAILING TO FIND ANY VERY SATISFACTORY ANSWERS. WE WILL BE REPORTING THE INFORMATION WE ARE ABLE TO DEVELOP, ALONG WITH OUR ESTIMATE OF ITS SIGNIFICANCE, AS THE VISIT PROGRESSES.
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TAGS: PEPR, BM, CH, (TENG HSIAO-PING)
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